

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC; BT

SUBJECT: BHUTANESE STUDENT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 185008-C

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S OFFER TO BHUTANESE RE STUDENT GRANTS SET NO LIMITS ON EDUCATIONAL LEVELS, DURATION OR FIELDS, ALTHOUGH NO DOUBT HE ASSUMED CANDIDATES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE QUALITY FOR ADMISSION AND SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE. HAVE THERE BEEN PROBLEMS, INCLUDING LANGUAGE, WITH FIRST TWO STUDENTS?

2. IN VIEW THIS BACKGROUND, AND AS WE HAVE HAD BHUTANESE NOMINATIONS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOW TO SUGGEST OUTRIGHT THAT ONE AGRICULTURAL STUDENT NOMINEE BE DROPPED. WE CAN SUGGEST THAT COMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BE ASSEMBLED FOR BOTH AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS AND BOTH ENGINEERING STUDENTS. THEN, IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PLACE ONE OF THE FORMER, AN ENGINEERING STUDENT MAY BE SUBSTITUTED.

3. WE WILL SUMMARIZE THE COST FIGURES FOR BHUTAN MISSION AND ADVISE YOU OF REACTION. BHUTAN HAS OFFERS OF SO MANY OF FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIPS, AND SO FEW QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AT PRESENT, THAT RESPONSE MAY BE TO TURN TO AUSTRALIA OR UK. WOULD APPEAR THAT US PROGRAM FOR BHUTANESE STUDENTS LARGELY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. IF SO, AND IF WORTH CONTINUING, WE MAY NEED TO ACCEPT SOME FLEXIBILITY IN STANDARDS, AND ALSO TO WORK OUT WITH THE MODALITIES OF HANDLING WHAT WILL ALWAYS BE A TINY PROGRAM.

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4. THIS MAY ALL BE MOOT FOR FALL FOR AS OF AUGUST 6 BHUTAN MIS-

SION STILL HAD NO REPLIES FROM THIMPU ON TRANSCRIPTS FOR TWO STUDENTS NOMINATED EARLIER, OR ON VITA FOR TWO ENGINEERING CANDIDATES. SUSPECT BEST THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT, IF YOU AND IIE/CONCUR, IS JANUARY PLACEMENT WITH INTENSIVE LANGUAGE AND OTHER REMEDIAL WORK BEGINNING LATE FALL.
SAXBE

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